

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS REACTIONS TO PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS

1. ITALIAN MEDIA REACTION TO SOCIALIST SUCCESS IN PORTUGUESE ELECTION IS BROADLY LAUDATORY. PAPERS OF ALL POLITICAL COLORATIONS EMPHASIZE POLITICAL MATURITY SHOWN BY PORTUGUESE AND NOTE THAT DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS VERY MUCH ALIVE.

2. CENTRIST "IL GIORNALE" IN SUNDAY FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT "THE RESULTS DO NOT REPEAT NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO ANY MISUNDERSTANDING. NOW THE (PORTUGUESE) MILITARY AND THE WORLD KNOW WHAT THIS NATION WANTS. THE ALIBI OF IMMATURITY NO LONGER HOLDS."

3. COMMUNIST "L'UNITA" CALLS THE ELECTION "A GREAT VICTORY FOR THE SOCIALIST PARTY, A GOOD SHOWING BY THE COMMUNISTS AND A CLEAR DEFEAT FOR THE NOSTALGIC RIGHT."

4. MILAN'S "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" CONCLUDES THAT "FOREIGN CAPITAL IS WAITING. IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS ERROR WERE EUROPE TO DENY OR POSTPONE AID. THAT WOULD BE AN ERROR SIMILAR TO THAT MADE BY THE U.S. IN 1960 TOWARDS CUBA." SAME PAPER, HOWEVER, EDITORIALIZES THAT THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY "WHO HAVE LEAD THE PORTUGUESE TO ELECTIONS, BUT DO NOT INTEND TO GIVE UP REAL POWER, HAVE

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DISCOVERED...DIFFERENT COUNTRY FROM THE ONE THEY IMAGINED.

THEY ARE NOW TRYING TO PLAY DOWN THE VALUE OF THE VOTE. THE OFFICERS
ARE EXERTING PRESSURE FOR A POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT BETWEEN
THE SOCIALISTS AND THE COMMUNISTS." SOARES REPORTEDLY RESISTING
SUGGESTION OF SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST FRONT.BEAUDRY

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